

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-12 and 14-19 remain pending in this application. Claims 2, 3, 7 and 13 have been previously canceled. Claims 10-12 and 14-16 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the indication that claims 5, 8 and 18 would be considered allowable if placed in independent form.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the claimed invention. Support for this amendment can be found in the present application at, for example, page 13, lines 23-27 of the present specification. By this amendment, applicants attempted to address the Examiner's suggestion (paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action). Accordingly, no new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 17 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshida et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,856,066). Yoshida et al. is said to teach each feature of the claimed invention, including each step of the claimed method for producing a water developable photopolymer plate wherein the plate is made from a photopolymer comprising a binder polymer comprising a mixture of a polar-group containing polymer and a hydrophobic polymer, an ethylenically unsaturated compound and a photopolymerization initiator. Specifically the Examiner apparently takes the view that the photopolymer formulation described at col. 4, lines 19-37 and Example 1 of Yoshida et al. is the same as or meets the requirements of the photopolymer used in the claimed method. Applicants disagree.

The binder polymer taught in Example 1 of Yoshida et al. and further described in Example 1 of JP-A-1-245,245, is a polyether type unsaturated polyurethane polymer, a

single polymer, and not a resin in which a polar-group containing polymer and a hydrophobic polymer are mixed and dispersed as claimed. The polyether type unsaturated polyurethane polymer of JP-A-1-245,245 is a single polymer in which a polyether such as polypropyleneglycol is concatenated with urethane units by reacting the polyether with diisocyanate. Thus, the polyether type unsaturated polyurethane polymer of Example 1 in both Yoshida et al. and JP-A-1-245,245 contains many urethane groups which are polar. However, the single polymer in these teachings is completely different than the resin of the claimed invention in which a polar-group containing polymer is mixed and dispersed with a hydrophobic polymer. For at least this reason, the rejection based on Yoshida et al. should be withdrawn.

Prompt and favorable reconsideration is requested.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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